



VIA ECFS

March 6, 2014

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554
Attn: Wireline Competition Bureau

**Re: WC Docket No. 10-90
Rural Broadband Experiment Expression of Interest for Price Cap Areas
Amherst Telephone Company**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Amherst Telephone Company hereby expresses interest in participating in the Commission's rural broadband experiments to provide robust, scalable high-speed broadband to unserved high-cost areas with additional Connect America funding.¹ Amherst Telephone Company is an ILEC serving rural areas of Wisconsin, and proposes deployment as follows.

Proposed Service Area

The experiment will provide broadband service to [939] eligible high-cost locations in unserved high-cost Census Blocks with these Census Tract(s).

| [Wisconsin] | <u>County</u> | <u>Tract</u> |
|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| | Marathon | 55073001700 |
| | Portage | 55097960600 |
| | Portage | 55097961300 |

Proposed Services

Voice and Broadband services with broadband transmission speeds of at least 50 Mbps downstream/5Mbps upstream provided over fiber to the home technology.

¹ See *Technology Transitions et al.*, GN Docket No. 13-5 et al., Order, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Report and Order, Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Proposal for Ongoing Data Initiative, FCC 14-5 (rel. Jan. 31, 2014).

Funding

Because the unserved high-cost census blocks within the selected Census Tract(s) have yet to be identified, Amherst Telephone Company is unable to estimate the construction costs and amount of funding needed. The costs will be identified if and when a formal proposal is submitted.

Amherst Telephone Company expects service within the unserved high-cost Census Blocks to be offered to 50% of customers within 1 year and the remaining within 2 years after construction starts.

Amherst Telephone Company appreciates the opportunity to provide this non-binding expression of interest. Please contact the undersigned with any questions.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard A. Letto", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Richard A. Letto
Executive VP/GM